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HEADQUARTERS
THEATER SERVICE FORCES
EUROPEAN THEATER
Office of the Theater Chief Surgeon
(Main), APO 757

Ch Surg 400

22 September 1945.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 68

Issue of Low Quarter Shoes to EM

1. The Office of the Theater Chief Quartermaster has, since the cessation of hostilities, been receiving increasing numbers of medical requisitions for the issue of low quarter shoes to enlisted men. The volume of these requisitions has now reached the point where it is evident that the requests are not all valid. The use of a medical request as a mechanism of obtaining low quarter shoes without just medical reason must be discontinued at once.

2. Hereafter, all requests for low quarter shoes for enlisted men must contain:

a. A complete medical diagnosis of the condition for which the shoes are being requisitioned, and

b. A statement that the issue of low quarter shoes is necessary.

All requests will be signed by the medical officer himself.

3. a. Low quarter shoes in themselves are not adequate treatment for most chronic foot ailments. The standard issue boots, service, combat, or shoes, service, type III, are very satisfactory for the treatment of most chronic foot disorders. All of the internal and external appliances and shoe corrections which are normally used in the treatment of painful feet may be applied to them.

b. Those cases in which there is a specific need for low quarter shoes can be, with few exceptions, grouped under the following headings:

- (1) Acute or chronic tendinitis of the tendon achilles.
- (2) Acute or chronic epidermophytosis (athletes foot).
- (3) Severe pronation of the foot with irritation of the medial malleolus by high quarter shoes.
- (4) The rehabilitation stage following healing of fractures of the small bones of the feet when the high ~~quarter~~ quarter shoes are too stiff and heavy.

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4. Simple flat foot, whether of first, second or third degree, acute foot strain, metatarsalgia and March fractures, are not in themselves reason to request low quarter shoes.

5. It will be necessary to individualize the treatment of each case on the basis of the best judgment of the medical officer who is responsible for the therapy. Such individualization will not be utilized as a mechanism of avoiding the spirit of this directive.

By order of the Theater Chief Surgeon:

F H Mowrey
F. H. MOWREY,
Colonel, Medical Corps,
Executive Officer.